

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A line driver couplable to a transmission path having line characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

a driver stage configured to send a signal along said transmission path; and

a switching network, coupled to said driver stage, configured to adaptively select a power level to send said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said transmission path.
2. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said driver stage comprises a plurality of amplifiers configured to amplify said signal.
3. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 2 wherein said driver stage comprises a reference circuit configured to provide a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.
4. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to adaptively select said power level.
5. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to couple an output of said line driver to ground.
6. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said power level includes a level up to about 21 volts.

7. (Original) The line driver as recited in Claim 1 wherein said line driver forms a portion of a front end of a transceiver.

8. (Original) A method of operating a line driver coupled to a transmission path having line characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

sending a signal along said transmission path; and

adaptively selecting a power level to send said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said transmission path.

9. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said sending is performed by a driver stage comprising a plurality of amplifiers that amplify said signal.

10. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 9 wherein said sending further comprises providing a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.

11. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said adaptively selecting is performed by a switching network comprising a plurality of switches.

12. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said adaptively selecting further comprises coupling an output of said line driver to ground.

13. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said power level includes a level up to about 21 volts.

14. (Original) The method as recited in Claim 8 wherein said line driver forms a portion of a front end of a transceiver.

15. (Original) A transceiver coupled to a transmission path having line characteristics associated therewith, comprising:

a conversion stage that converts signals between an analog and digital domain;

a filter stage, coupled to said conversion stage, that filters said signals; and

a line driver, including:

a driver stage configured to send a signal along said transmission path; and

a switching network, coupled to said driver stage, configured to adaptively select a power level to send said signal as a function of said line characteristics of said transmission path.

16. (Original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said driver stage comprises a plurality of amplifiers configured to amplify said signal.

17. (Original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 16 wherein said driver stage comprises a reference circuit configured to provide a reference level associated with said plurality of amplifiers.

18. (Original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to adaptively select said power level.

19. (Original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said switching network comprises a plurality of switches configured to couple an output of said line driver to ground.

20. (Original) The transceiver as recited in Claim 15 wherein said power level includes a level up to about 21 volts.